who qualify for BPL status and PDS programme and that Central assistance worth crores of rupees, aimed at providing relief to such people, hardly trickles to them;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to inquiry into the whole system so as to fix responsibility for the wanton and systemic lapses and plug loopholes and strengthen the systems; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that the death of Shri Majeed S/o Shri Abdullah of Bhabnava village in Sitapur District on 25.1.2008 which was reported in the press has been investigated by the State Government. After investigation it was found that the person died of prolonged illness whose treatment was going on in the Community Health Centre. The State Government has reported that the death was not due to starvation.

The guidelines issued by this Ministry for idenfication of BPL rural households already include the provision for redressal of public grievances through a two-stage appeal mechanism. Any person having grievance regarding omission or non-inclusion of his/her name in the BPL list can file first appeal with the Tehsildar/SDM as the case may be and if still not satisfied second and final appeal can be filed with the Collector. A time-frame has been prescribed for disposal of such appeals.

Implementation of NREGS in Kerala

750. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in which NREGS is implemented in the State of Kerala;

(b) the beneficiaries identified in the last two years, district-wise;

(c) the number of employment/wages given; and

(d) the assets created in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is presently implemented in 4 districts *viz.* Palakkad, Wayanad, Idukki and Kasargod in the State of Kerala.

(b) and (c) The district wise number of beneficiary households provided employment and the amount of wages given to them during the last two years in the State of Kerala is as under:

Sl No	District	2006-2007		2007-2008 (till 31 01 2008)	
		Number of beneficiary households provided employment	Amount of wages given (Rs in lakhs)	Number of beneficiary households provided employment	Amount of wages given (Rs in lakhs)
1	Palakkad	43957	1101	61698	2193
2	Wayanad	55150	1374	52689	2411
3	Idukki	District not covered under NREGS in 2006-07		525	15
4	Kasargod	District not covered under NREGS in 2006-07		1128	36
	TOTAL:	99107	2475	116040	4655

(d) The category-wise number of works completed creating assets under NREGS in the last two years in the State of Kerala is given in the Statement.

Statement

The categorywise number of works completed under NREGS in last two years in Kerala

Category of work	2006-07				Total	2007-2008 (till 31 01 2008)				Total
	District					District				
	Palakkad	Wayanad	Idukki	Kasargod		Palakkad	Wayanad	Idukki	Kasargod	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Rural Connectivity	7	Not reported by State Govt.	District covered under NREGS in 2007-08		7	66	347	0	2	415
Flood Control	Not reported by State Govt					616	1385	25	41	2067
Water Conservation	3856	4150			7961	221	1724	0	16	1961
Drought Proofing	1620	217			1837	46	60	0	0	106
Micro Irrigation	28	50			78	558	199	3	31	791
Renovation of traditional water bodies	292	32			324	488	228	0	0	716
Land Development	283	2261			2544	66	1114	2	1	1183

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Provision of Irrigation Facility to land owned by SC/ST, etc	57	2			59	69	24	0	0	93
	6143	6667			12810	2130	5081	30	91	7332

New Pension Scheme for senior citizens in A.P.

751. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pension scheme unveiled by Government for senior citizens of the country;

(b) the details of senior citizens who are going to be benefited with the above scheme in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there is any plan for extending this scheme to widows and physically challenged person; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) was launched on 19th November, 2007 under which pension is provided to a person who is 65 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary will be provided to by way of Central Assistance under IGNOAPS.

(b) In Andhra Pradesh, 453230 persons are going to be benefited under IGNOAPS, in addition to the existing 466000 beneficiaries.

(c) and (d) A proposal is under consideration to provide pension to widows (18-59 years) and physically disabled (0-59 years) as well as to persons who are 60 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India, by lowering the age limit from 65 years to 60 years under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

Success of NREG Scheme

752. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has not been found to be a success;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to effectively implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides for all egal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to